56 Curzon St, W1, London
August 5th

Dear Margaret

It is a very quiet Sunday, so far, and I shall have dinner with Ruth in her apartment this evening. The city seems almost deserted, as many persons have gone into the country for the long week-end. Monday is a Bank Holiday and nearly everything will be closed including our offices.

I had invited Ruth and her room-mate and Dr. O'Brien to dinner on my birthday, which happens to be Monday. (I appreciate their having made it a holiday in England). Yesterday Ruth phoned that she would be

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out of town and could not come, but invited me for this evening and declined firmly to be my guest to-night. She has already sublet (?) her flat to Ruthmary Penfield of the Embassy for about the middle of September, so you can see that she expects her office to be moved to an unnamed destination at an indefinite time. I ask no embarrassing questions.

Yesterday Mr. Winant invited me to luncheon and we had a very pleasant talk about UNRRA and things in general.

He had already heard of Reg's new job. He is working very hard, but seems well.

I am enclosing two clippings which will interest you. One is about the "fire-weed" or rose bay which has grown all over the ruined sites and in places up on the walls. You will notice that it was named fire-weed because it spread so rapidly over the ruined sites after the great fire of London, rather than because of its appearance after forest fires in America. The other clipping explains itself.

(Mrs)

Evidently the reporter interviews Dr. O'Brien and others as well as me. Doesn't the "fine old house on the River Hudson" sound like the counterpart of an English estate?

Please give little Margaret my love and say that I received her letter and hope that she got mine. I miss her very much and hope she is getting plenty of grand ~~studies~~ stories from Daddy.

Peg's letter and the announcement of her new job was quite a surprise. I see that it will involve your help and I shall be interested in the details when you write next.

I now have a regular ration

book for clothes as well as food and can buy shirts to replace any lost in the laundry or worn out. The laundries take over two weeks to return clothes on account of labor shortage, summer holidays, etc.

Please continue to use my APO address. It seems to be the most permanent one.

Sir Arthur Salter will soon be in the States and he may ring you up to give you the news about me. He is Senior Deputy Director General under Gov. Lehman. Dr. Andrew Topping will go to Washington near the end of August, and you may possibly hear from him. If you could see him or invite him to the house, I should appreciate it,

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This will be his first visit to the U.S.A. He is the Director of Health for the European Region of UNRRA, and we are working closely together.

My plans are still to remain in Europe, which means London, until about the middle of October.

We heard through the press of the death of Mr. Soldan Gunn and Dr. O'Brien and I sent a message of sympathy to Mrs. Gunn through the Foundation.

I hope you have had a real vacation and are refreshed and bursting with energy. As always I send my warmest love,

Yours

Hilbert.